



SPECIAL **CRISIS** CROSS-OVER

GIFFEN, FLEMING COLON & KESEL

# AMETHYST

PRINCESS  
OF GEMWORLD

13  
75¢  
CAN. 95¢  
U.K. 35p  
FEB. 86  
APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
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SPECIAL  
GUEST-STAR--  
**Dr. Fate**



# STRIKING!

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BUILT FOR FUN™

# Lightning™



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WHEN THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD AMY WINSTON STEPS THROUGH THE MAGICAL DOORWAY IN HER BED-ROOM WALL, SHE ENTERS AN ENCHANTED DIMENSION WHERE SHE BECOMES--

# AMETHYST

PRINCESS  
OF GEMWORLD

THEY CALLED IT THE CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS -- A WAR OF UNPARALLELED DEATH AND DESTRUCTION THAT VIOLATED ALL BOUNDARIES OF TIME AND SPACE-- AND THREATENED BOTH OF AMY WINSTON'S WORLDS. AS AMETHYST, SHE GLADLY RISKED HER LIFE TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE\*. NOW ARRIVING BACK ON THE GEMWORLD, AMETHYST BELIEVES THAT SHE'S SAFE.

SHE'S WRONG.

DESPITE HER SEVERE INJURIES, THIS YOUNG PRINCESS OF THE GEMWORLD FOUGHT BRAVELY IN THE FACE OF INCREDIBLE ODDS.

YET IF WHAT I SENSE ABOUT HER PROVES TO BE TRUE, SHE MAY ULTIMATELY TURN OUT TO BE THE MOST POWERFUL CREATURE IN THE UNIVERSE!

THE  
HAND  
OF  
Fate

SEE CRISIS #11--K.B.

KEITH  
GIFFEN  
PLOTTER

ROBERT LOREN  
FLEMING  
SCRIPTER

ERNIE  
COLON  
PENCILLER

KARL  
KESEL  
INKER

TATJANA  
WOOD  
COLORIST

AGUSTIN  
MAS  
LETTERER

KAREN  
BERGER  
EDITOR



THANKS FOR BRINGING ME HOME, DOCTOR FATE. I NEVER WOULD HAVE FOUND MY WAY ALONE. IT'S SO DARK!

FEEL THE WARMTH ON YOUR FACE, AMETHYST. WE TRAVEL BY THE LIGHT OF A THOUSAND SUNS!

LIGHT? BUT THEN, WHY CAN'T I SEE? GOSH, I FEEL LIKE I'M... BLIND...

NO...NOT BLIND.

YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT. YOU LOST YOUR SIGHT IN THE CRISIS. THE SHOCK HAS AFFECTED YOUR MEMORY. BUT IF I AM CORRECT, YOU WILL SOON BE ABLE TO ADJUST TO THIS MINOR HANDICAP.

I SAID NOTHING OF THE KIND. PUT ASIDE ALL SUCH WISHFUL THINKING.

I-I...REMEMBER NOW...BUT...THIS ISN'T PERMANENT...IS IT? I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE AGAIN... SOMEDAY...WON'T I?

WHY ARE YOU BEING SO MEAN? HAVEN'T I SUFFERED ENOUGH?

--AND IT IS A FAR CRY FROM THE GILT-EDGED LEGEND YOU HEARD FROM CITRINA.

OF COURSE. SHE WAS AN EXCELLENT SORCERESS, BUT WE HAD OUR DISAGREEMENTS. DID SHE TELL YOU THAT YOUR PARENTS LIVED IN A CASTLE?

YOUR STRUGGLES HAVE BARELY BEGUN. NOW LISTEN TO WHAT I AM GOING TO TELL YOU, FOR I DO NOT HAVE MUCH TIME. IT IS THE TRUE STORY OF THE GEMWORLD...

YOU KNEW CITRINA?

YES. AN ENCHANTED CASTLE.



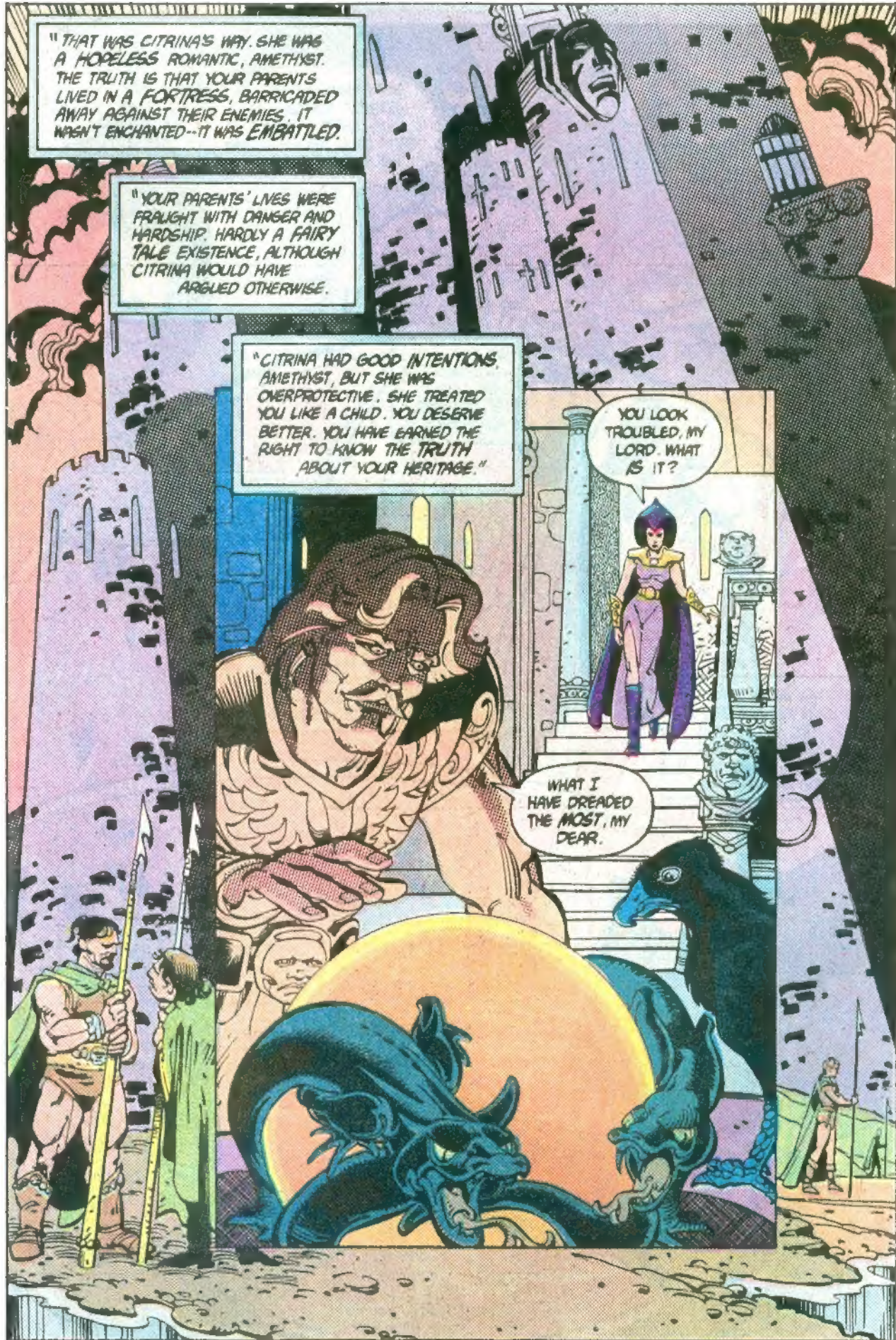
"THAT WAS CITRINA'S WAY. SHE WAS A HOPELESS ROMANTIC, AMETHYST. THE TRUTH IS THAT YOUR PARENTS LIVED IN A FORTRESS, BARRICADED AWAY AGAINST THEIR ENEMIES. IT WASN'T ENCHANTED--IT WAS EMBATTLED."

"YOUR PARENTS' LIVES WERE FRAUGHT WITH DANGER AND HARDSHIP. HARDLY A FAIRY TALE EXISTENCE, ALTHOUGH CITRINA WOULD HAVE ARGUED OTHERWISE."


"CITRINA HAD GOOD INTENTIONS, AMETHYST, BUT SHE WAS OVERPROTECTIVE. SHE TREATED YOU LIKE A CHILD. YOU DESERVE BETTER. YOU HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT TO KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT YOUR HERITAGE."

"YOU LOOK TROUBLED, MY LORD. WHAT IS IT?"

"WHAT I HAVE DREADED THE MOST, MY DEAR."







MY ENEMIES HAVE JOINED FORCES! AT THIS VERY MOMENT, DARK OPAL WALKS AMONG THE ANCIENT ONES!

"MARK THE VILLAIN'S MANNER, MY LADY. HIS PRIDE BETRAYS HIS PURPOSE!"

"THE ANCIENT ONES HAVE PLAYED HIM FOR A GULLIBLE FOOL--"

"DARK OPAL INTENDS TO DO WHAT EVEN THE ANCIENT ONES DARE NOT! FOR THEY THEMSELVES ARE BUT PAWNS IN A MUCH LARGER GAME."

"OPAL WILL OPEN THE PORTAL AND ALLOW THE LORD OF CHAOS TO ENTER THE GEMWORLD, AN ACT OF COMPLETE MADNESS!"

"--AND I FEAR THAT DARK OPAL'S THIRST FOR POWER MAY DOOM BOTH HIM AND THE ENTIRE GEMWORLD!"



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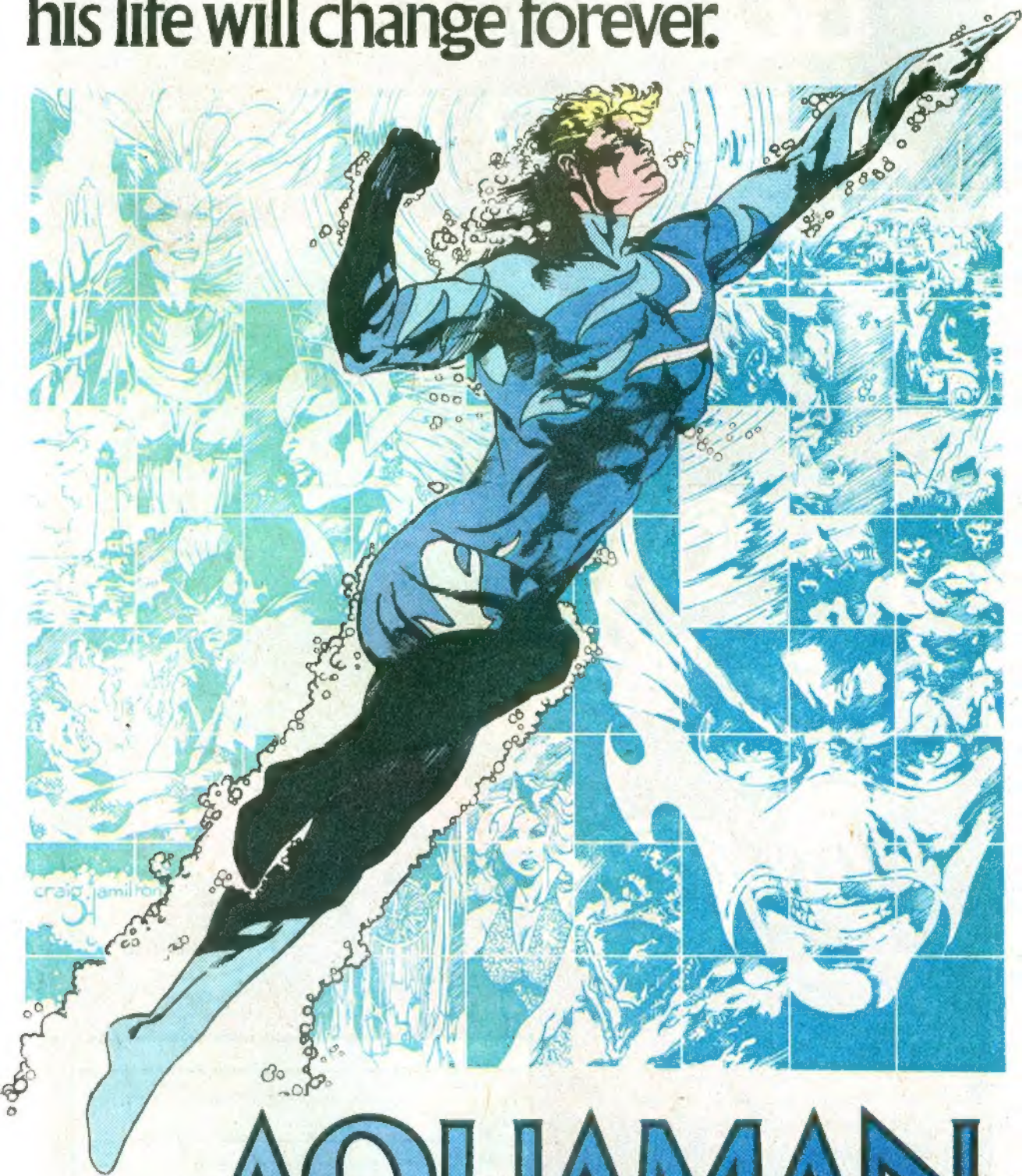
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# AQUAMAN

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I NOW GIVE MY BODY  
OVER TO THE LORD  
OF ORDER. I ONLY  
REGRET, MY LADY,  
THAT YOU SEEM SO  
EAGER TO HAVE  
ME DO SO.



I BELIEVE  
THAT YOUR HUSBAND  
SUSPECTS, LADY,  
AMETHYST. BUT  
FEAR NOT.



HE AND I WILL  
BOTH BE LUCKY  
TO SURVIVE THIS  
CONFRONTATION.



BE  
CAREFUL.



I TREAT YOUR  
HUSBAND'S BODY  
AS THOUGH IT  
WERE MY OWN.



YET IF IT  
WERE, YOU  
WOULD BE  
MINE AS  
WELL.

EVEN AS I FLY  
INTO BATTLE, I  
CAN THINK ONLY  
OF HER! YET THOSE  
THOUGHTS HAVE LED  
ALREADY TO THE  
CONFRONTATION  
I NOW FACE

I AM A LORD OF  
ORDER, YET MY  
PASSION FOR LADY  
AMETHYST *DEFIES*  
ORDER AND INVITES  
CHAOS!

BY CORRUPTING  
THE LADY AND BETRAYING  
HER HUSBAND, I HAVE  
MYSELF INTRODUCED THE  
ADDED ELEMENT OF CHAOS  
INTO THE GEMWORLD. I HAVE  
ENABLED MY FOES TO CALL  
FORTH THEIR MASTER  
PREMATURELY!

I HAVE  
BECOME...MY  
OWN WORST  
ENEMY!





I DON'T UNDERSTAND, DOCTOR FATE. MY FATHER WAS THE HOST BODY TO A LORD OF ORDER... AND IT LIVED IN A JEWEL AROUND HIS NECK?

NO, AMETHYST, THE JEWEL WAS THE LORD OF ORDER. I AM ONE, ALSO, BUT THE FORM I TAKE IS THE HELMET THAT MY HOST BODY DONS IN TIMES OF DANGER.

WE ARE GODLIKE BEINGS WHO CARRY ON A NEVER-ENDING STRUGGLE AGAINST OUR EVIL OPPOSITES, THE LORDS OF CHAOS.

DURING YOUR FATHER'S TIME, AMETHYST, THE GEMWORLD SECTOR WAS NEW AND NOT DEEMED SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH TO WARRANT A VERY POWERFUL LORD OF ORDER. BUT THE ONE SENT THERE WAS MUCH WEAKER THAN ANYONE SUSPECTED.

WEAK IN WHAT WAY?

HE FELL IN LOVE WITH YOUR MOTHER, AMETHYST, AND USED YOUR FATHER'S BODY TO CONSUMMATE THE RELATIONSHIP.

WHAT YOU'RE SUGGESTING IS IMPOSSIBLE! YOU'RE SAYING THAT MY FATHER WAS A GOD! AND THAT I'M ONE, TOO!

AND YET YOUR FATHER DID BOTH. HE WAS A REMARKABLE BEING.

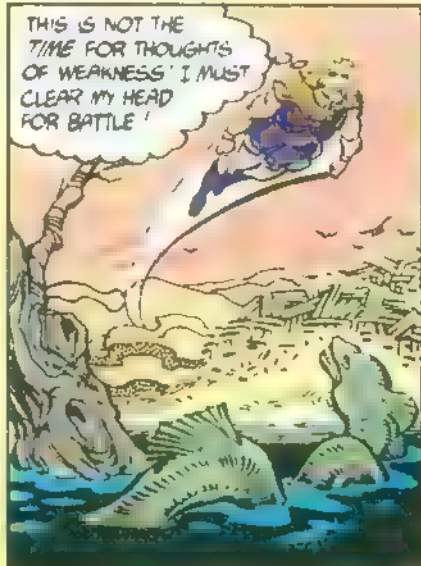
MORE THAN THAT! YOU ARE THE FIRST LORD OF ORDER IN HUMAN FORM! WE NEVER FALL IN LOVE. WE DO NOT PROCREATE.

YOU HAVE INHERITED HIS PASSION, AMETHYST.

BUT NONE OF HIS WEAKNESS.

"AND YET, AS HE RACED TO HIS FINAL BATTLE, YOUR FRAGILE-HEARTED FATHER SHOWED NO FEAR."

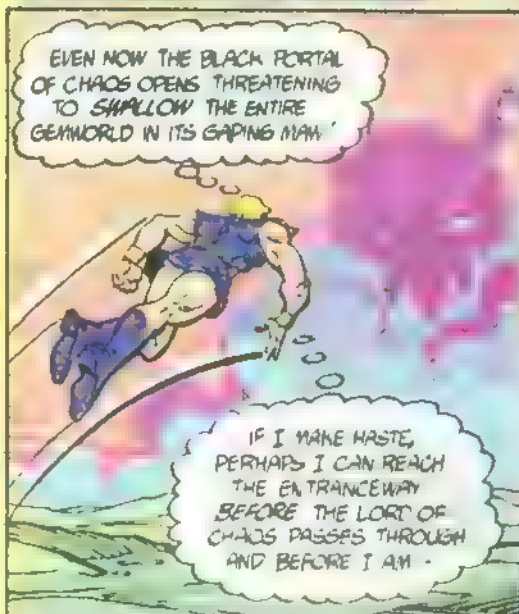




THIS IS NOT THE  
TIME FOR THOUGHTS  
OF WEAKNESS. I MUST  
CLEAR MY HEAD  
FOR BATTLE!



AND PRAY  
THAT I AM NOT  
TOO LATE

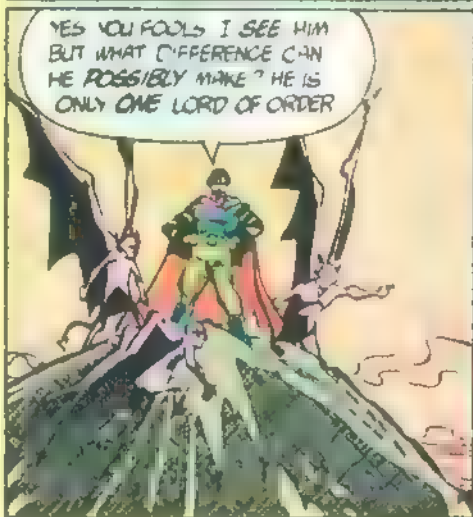


EVEN NOW THE BLACK PORTAL  
OF CHAOS OPENS, THREATENING  
TO SWALLOW THE ENTIRE  
GENWORLD IN ITS GAPING MAW.

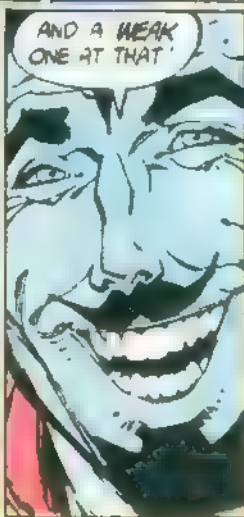
IF I MAKE HASTE,  
PERHAPS I CAN REACH  
THE ENTRANCEWAY  
BEFORE THE LORD OF  
CHAOS PASSES THROUGH  
AND BEFORE I AM.



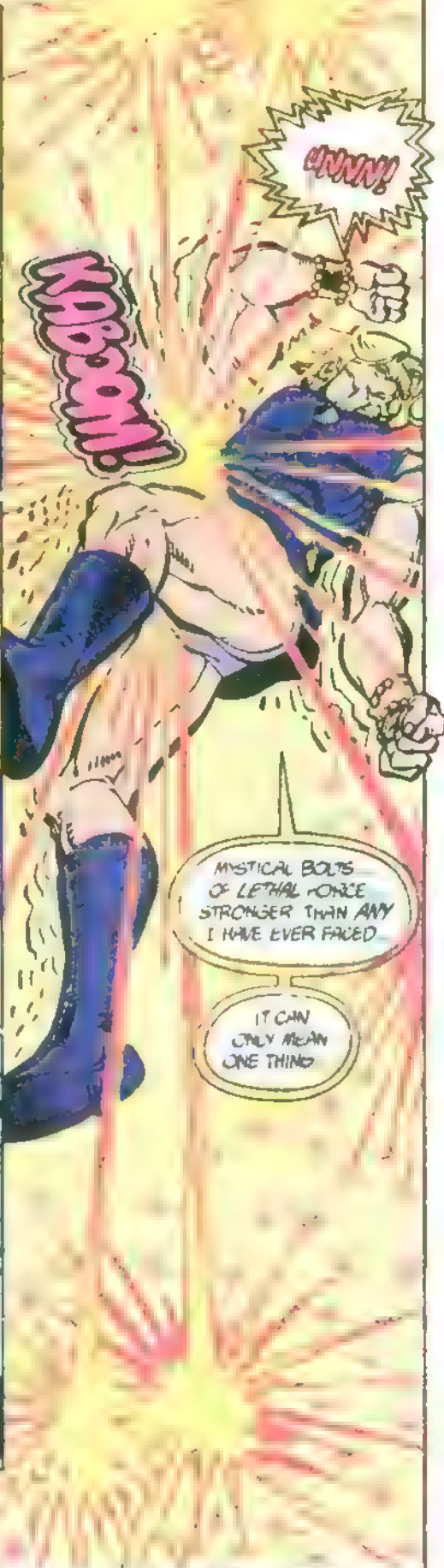
-DETECTED?



YES YOU FOOLS I SEE HIM  
BUT WHAT DIFFERENCE CAN  
HE POSSIBLY MAKE? HE IS  
ONLY ONE LORD OF ORDER



AND A WEAK  
ONE AT THAT!



KABOOM!

CHNN!

MYSTICAL BOLTS  
OF LETHAL FORCE  
STRONGER THAN ANY  
I HAVE EVER FACED

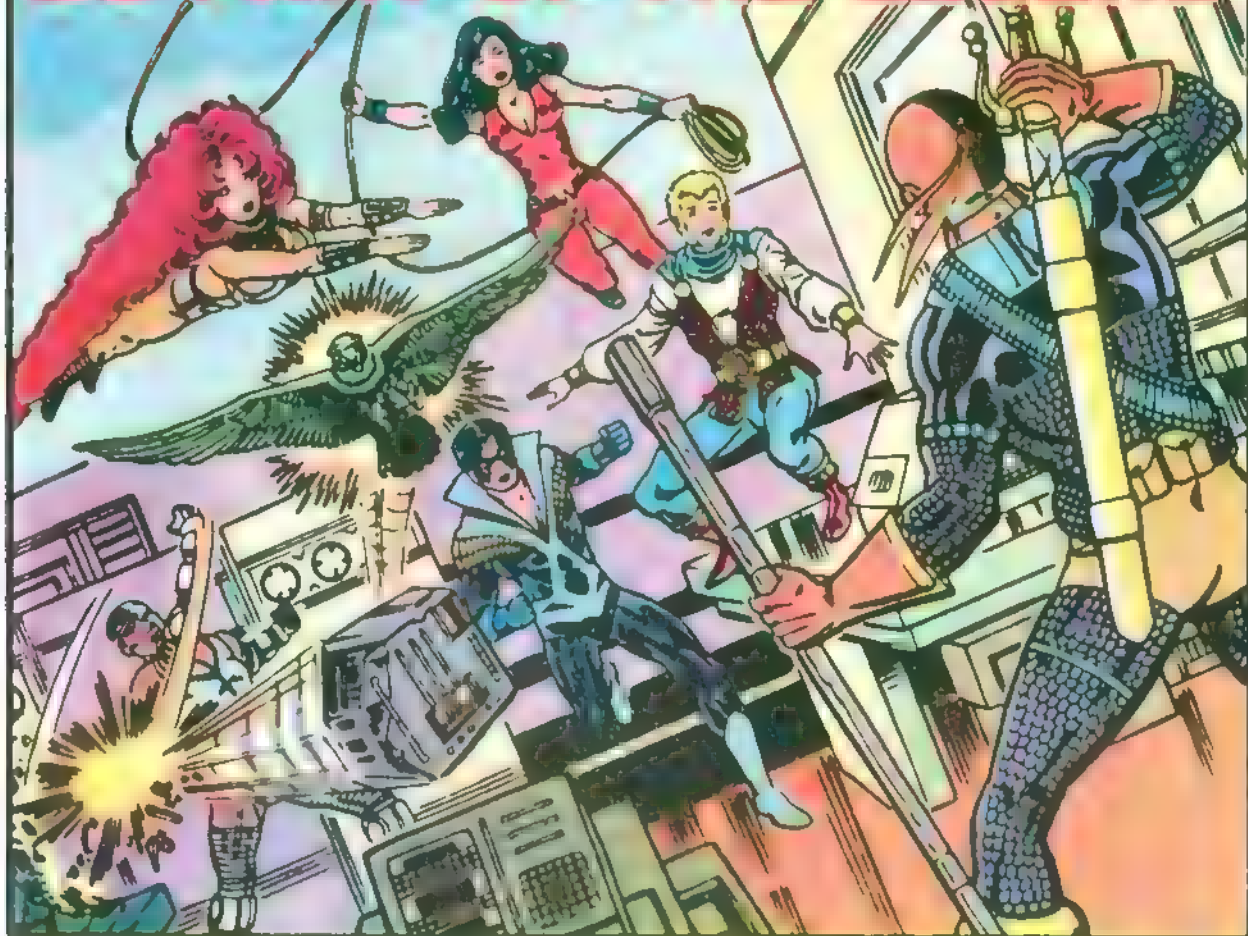
IT CAN  
ONLY MEAN  
ONE THING





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in your mind!



**DUSK**

PERFUME FOR MEN



**METRO**  
TODAY

THE MAN  
BEHIND  
THE MASK

Page 1



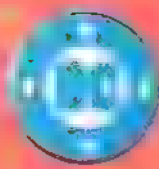
HE'S NOT  
HE'S BOOSTER GOLD

**DAILY PLANET**

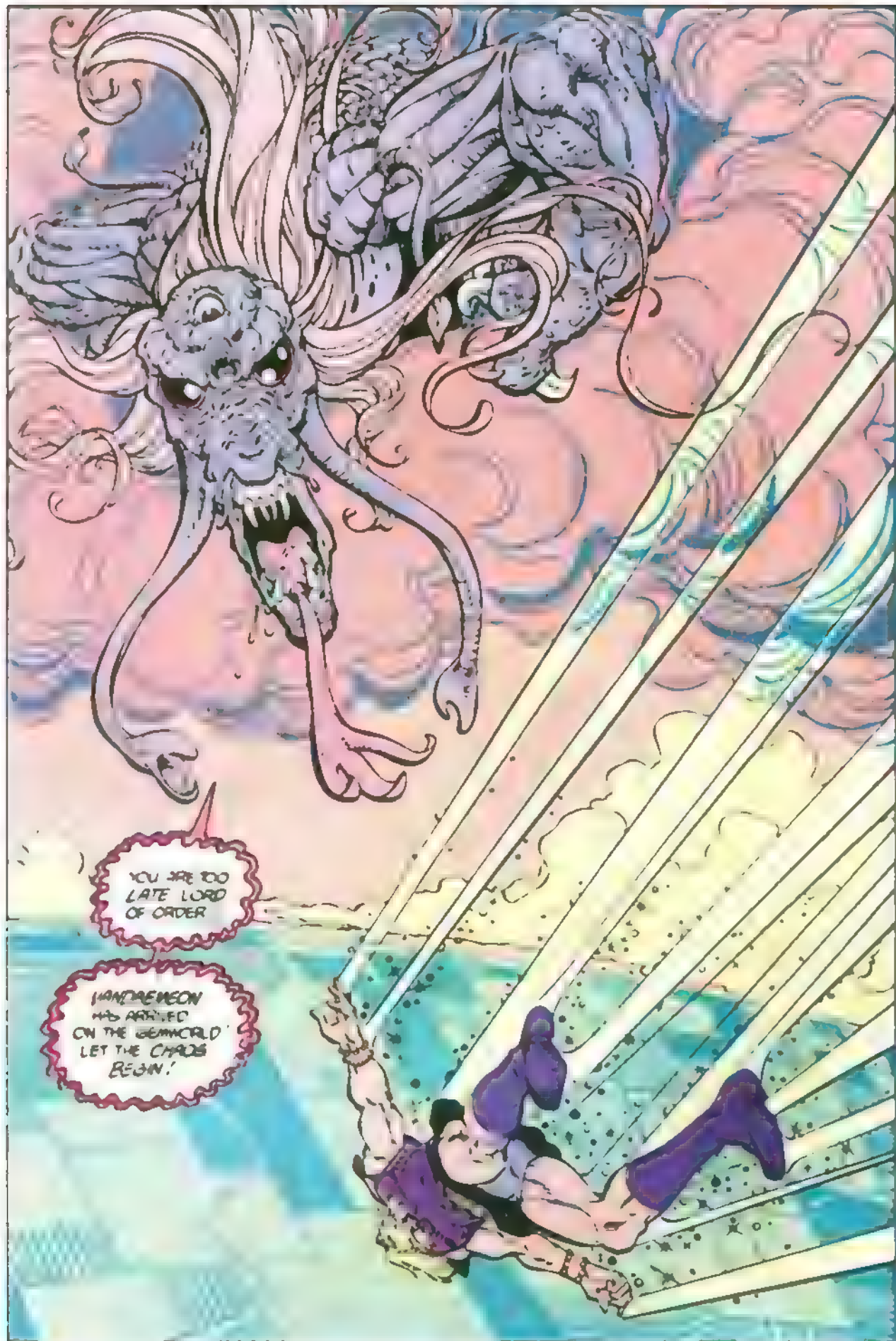
BOOSTER SNAES  
METROPOLIS

GO  
FOR  
THE GOLD...

**BOOSTER  
GOLD**



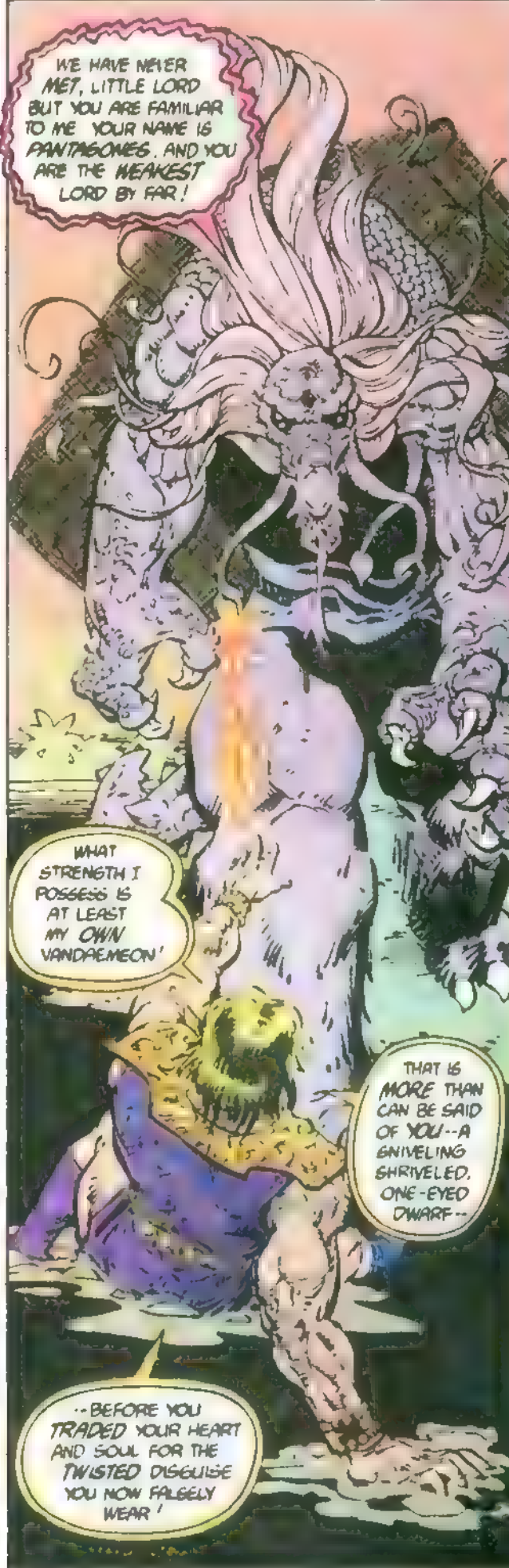




YOU ARE TOO  
LATE LORD  
OF ORDER

HANDREXON  
HAS ARRIVED  
ON THE GEMWORLD  
LET THE CHAOS  
BEGIN!





WE HAVE NEVER  
MET, LITTLE LORD  
BUT YOU ARE FAMILIAR  
TO ME YOUR NAME IS  
PANTAGONES. AND YOU  
ARE THE WEAKEST  
LORD BY FAR!

WHAT  
STRENGTH I  
POSSESS IS  
AT LEAST  
MY OWN  
VANDAMEON!

THAT IS  
MORE THAN  
CAN BE SAID  
OF YOU--A  
ENVELOPING  
SHRIELED,  
ONE-EYED  
DWARF--

--BEFORE YOU  
TRADED YOUR HEART  
AND SOUL FOR THE  
TWISTED DISGUISE  
YOU NOW FALSELY  
WEAR!

FOR THAT  
INSULT, YOU  
WILL DIE  
PANTAGONES!

BUT FIRST AS A  
LESSON TO YOU, I  
WILL REDUCE YOUR  
BEMWORLD TO COMPLETE  
AND LITTER CHAOS!


YOU ARE  
WELCOME TO  
TRY VANDAMEON  
BUT FIRST LEARN AN  
IMPORTANT LESSON  
YOURSELF OF A  
POWER STRONGER  
THAN ORDER OR  
CHAOS!

LEARN OF THE  
POWER CONTAINED  
IN A SINGLE  
HUMAN HEART!

**BZZT!**

YOU DARE  
ATTACK ME?





PANTAGONES WAS  
STRENGTHENED BY  
HIS LOVE FOR YOUR  
MOTHER, AMETHYST--

--AND VANDAMEON'S THREATS  
AGAINST THE GEMWORLD DROVE  
PANTAGONES ON. DEATH WAS NOT  
AS TERRIFYING TO HIM AS THE  
THOUGHT OF A WORLD WITHOUT  
LADY AMETHYST. HE FOUGHT  
MAINLY FOR HER.

IT WAS  
HOPELESS, OF  
COURSE PANTAGONES  
WAS NOT MERELY  
OUTCLASSED.

HE WAS  
OUTNUMBERED







ONCE AGAIN, IT IS UP TO DARK OPAL TO SAVE THE DAY!

SEE HOW EASY VICTORY COMES AND WITH SUCH A LIGHT TOUCH!

ARRGH!!



NO OPAL IS INTERFERING BUT HAS PASSED DIRECTLY THROUGH THE HEART OF THE LIVING JEWEL THAT IS PANTAGONES!

I AM BATHED IN THE UNDILUTED EVIDENCE OF SHEER ORDER!



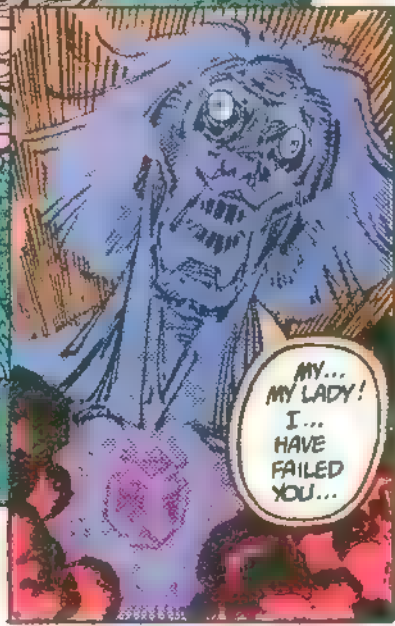


AND IT  
HURTS!!

DARK OPAL!  
YOU MUST PAY  
FOR YOUR  
PRESUMPTION!

NO!  
I MEANT  
ONLY TO  
HELP!

HELP  
YOURSELF TO  
THIS, THEN!  
A TASTE OF  
TRUE ORDER!



MY...  
MY LADY!  
I...  
HAVE  
FAILED  
YOU...





THE LORD OF ORDER  
LIES DEAD WHILE I  
STILL LIVE THIS IS  
TRULY--



--JUSTICE?

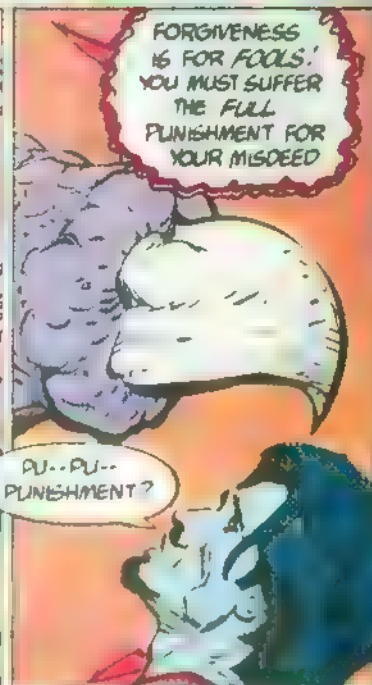


NOW YOU WILL WEAR  
YOUR CORRUPTION FOR ALL  
TO SEE! I WILL RETURN  
ONE DAY AND REMOVE THE  
BRAND PROVIDING THAT  
YOU HAVE MADE THIS  
WORLD MORE READY  
FOR MY USE.



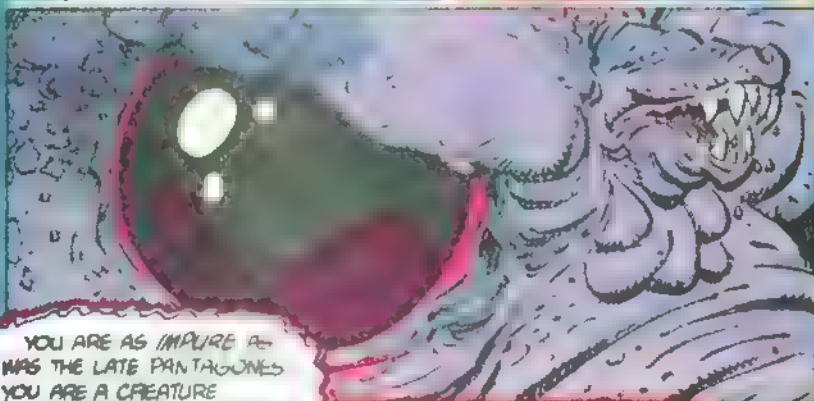
THAT KILL  
BELONGED  
TO ME  
OPAL!

I REGRET THE  
INCIDENT, YOUR  
GREATNESS! PLEASE  
FORGIVE ME!



FORGIVENESS  
IS FOR FOOLS!  
YOU MUST SUFFER  
THE FULL  
PUNISHMENT FOR  
YOUR MISDEED

PU..PU..  
PUNISHMENT?



YOU ARE AS IMPURE AS  
WAS THE LATE PANTAGONES  
YOU ARE A CREATURE  
OF EMOTION. COWARDICE  
Avarice, PRIDE, ENVY

YOU HAVE  
EARNED YOUR  
STRIPES, DARK  
OPAL! NOW IT IS  
UP TO YOU TO  
ERASE THEM, ONE  
EVIL DEED AT  
A TIME!

ONE EVIL  
DEED..



SO, DARK OPAL SET FORTH TO PREPARE THE GEMWORLD FOR HIS MASTER'S REAPPEARANCE. ONLY YOU WERE ABLE TO STAND IN HIS WAY AMETHYST, AND SAVE THE GEMWORLD FROM THE FORCES OF CHAOS

I NEVER KNEW! I THOUGHT THAT DARK OPAL WAS ACTING ON HIS OWN.

ONLY CITRINA REALIZED THE TRUE SIGNIFICANCE OF THAT BATTLE YOU WERE A SWORD IN HER HAND.

CITRINA LOVED ME. SHE FELT RESPONSIBLE FOR ME! MY DYING PARENTS LEFT ME IN HER CHARGE!

KEEP IN MIND, AMETHYST, THAT YOU HAVE HEARD ONLY CITRINA'S VERSION OF EVENTS.

I HAVE ALREADY TOLD YOU OF YOUR FATHER'S DEATH IN THE FAR-OFF KINGDOM OF DARK OPAL YOUR MOTHER WAS PREGNANT AT THE TIME WITH YOU THE CHILD OF PANTAGONES.

MANY MONTHS AFTER YOUR FATHER'S DISAPPEARANCE, YOU WERE BORN CITRINA SERVED AS MIDWIFE YOUR MOTHER TRUSTED HER COMPLETELY.





"ONE NIGHT SHORTLY AFTER YOUR BIRTH, LADY AMETHYST WAS UNABLE TO RESTRAIN THE URGE TO CREEP BACK INTO THE NURSERY AND SNEAK A PEEK AT HER DARLING DAUGHTER."



MY MY CHILD?



NO, PLEASE...



DON'T TAKE MY CHILD!

BUMP!

OH!



WHAT HAVE I DONE TO DESERVE THIS?



I THOUGHT I HAD PAID FOR MY SINS WITH THE LOSS OF BOTH MY HUSBAND AND PANTAGONES!

MY DAUGHTER IS COMPLETELY INNOCENT! WHY MUST SHE SUFFER TOO? WHY?



"FOR LADY AMETHYST, NO ANSWERS WERE FORTHCOMING."



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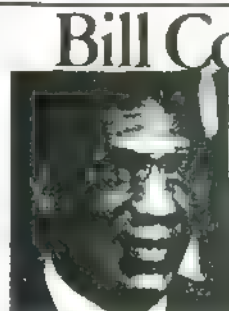
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- ☐ JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA
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- ☐ 'MAZING MAN
- ☐ SGT. ROCK\*
- ☐ STAR TREK
- ☐ SUPERMAN
- ☐ SWAMP THING
- ☐ TALES OF THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES
- ☐ TALES OF THE TEEN TITANS
- ☐ V
- ☐ WARLORD

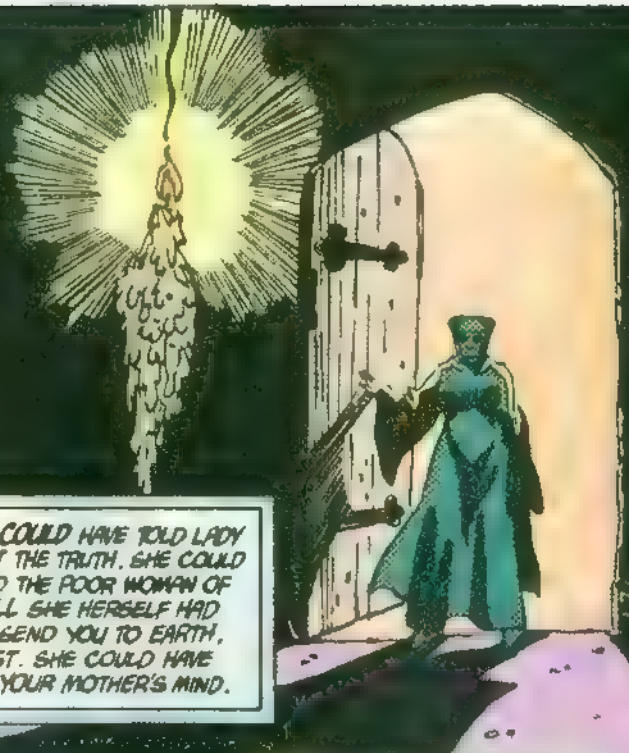
\*Indicates bi-monthly publication



"CITRINA FOUND HER IN TEARS, CROUCHED IN THE GRIM DARKNESS OF SELF-REPROACH. SHE BLAMED HERSELF FOR THIS NEW LOSS IT WAS A BLOW FROM WHICH SHE NEVER RECOVERED."



"CITRINA COULD HAVE TOLD LADY AMETHYST THE TRUTH. SHE COULD HAVE TOLD THE POOR WOMAN OF THE SPELL SHE HERSELF HAD USED TO SEND YOU TO EARTH, AMETHYST. SHE COULD HAVE EASED YOUR MOTHER'S MIND."



"BUT CITRINA SAID NOTHING."



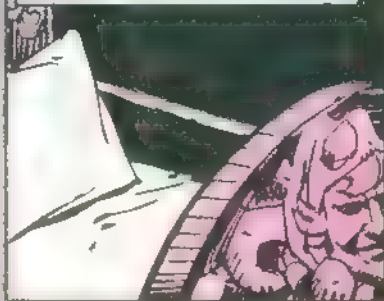
"YOU SEE, SHE WAS MORE THAN JUST A MOTHER FIGURE. SHE WAS A WITCH-MOTHER, RESPONSIBLE FOR AN ENTIRE WORLD. CITRINA WAS FORCED TO BE RUTHLESS."



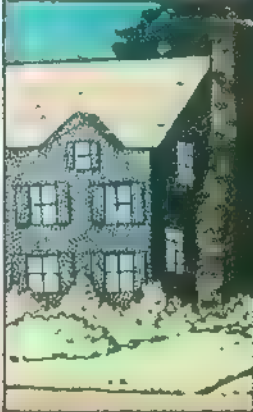
"SOMETIMES, THAT WAS VERY HARD, INDEED."



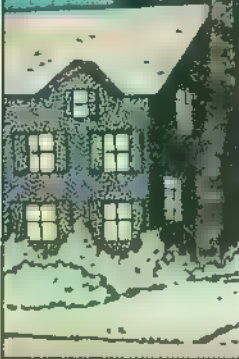
"CITRINA RECOGNIZED YOUR GREAT POWER THE MOMENT SHE FIRST LAID EYES ON YOU, AMETHYST. SHE KNEW THAT SUCH POWER WOULD NOT GO UNNOTICED BY THE EVIL FORCES OF CHAOS."



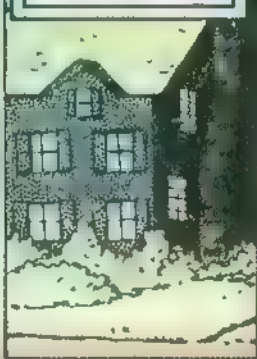
"SO CITRINA SENT YOU TO EARTH FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY."



"ONE DAY, WHEN YOU BECAME OLD ENOUGH, SHE PLANNED TO SEND FOR YOU."



"YOU WERE HER TRUMP CARD, TO BE REVEALED ONLY IN THE MOST DESPERATE OF SITUATIONS."



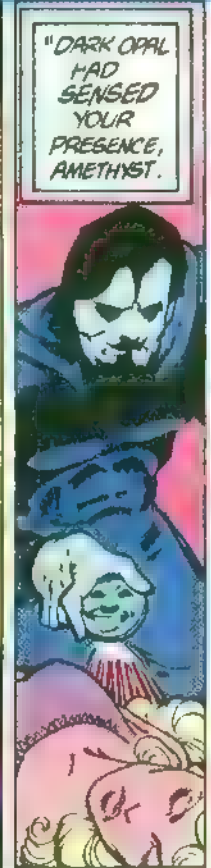




"IN THE MEANTIME, YOU  
HAD A GOOD HOME  
WITH THE WINSTONS



"DARK OPAL  
HAD  
SENSED  
YOUR  
PRESENCE,  
AMETHYST.

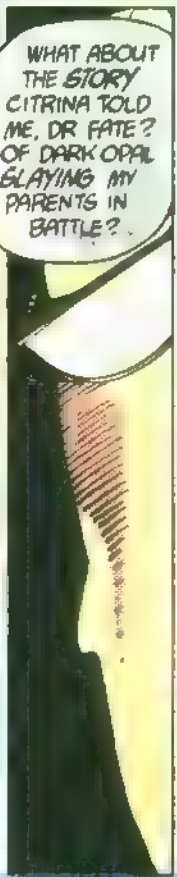


"HE USED HIS  
VICIOUS, LIVING  
BROACH TO TORTURE  
YOUR MOTHER INTO  
REVEALING YOUR  
WHEREABOUTS  
THANKS TO CITRINA  
THERE WAS NOTHING  
TO REVEAL."


BUT... WHAT  
HAPPENED TO MY  
REAL MOTHER? HOW  
DID SHE DIE?



OH! MY  
HEAD HURTS!  
I FEEL SO  
DIZZY AND  
CONFUSED!



WHAT ABOUT  
THE STORY  
CITRINA TOLD  
ME, DR FATE?  
OF DARK OPAL  
SLAYING MY  
PARENTS IN  
BATTLE?



"THAT MUCH IS TRUE. DARK  
OPAL CREATED MYSTICAL  
CONSTRUCTS OF YOUR  
PARENTS AND MURDERED  
THEM IN PUBLIC TO INCREASE  
HIS OWN, EVIL REPUTATION."

"THEY ACCEPTED YOU AS  
THEIR OWN DAUGHTER  
THANKS TO CITRINA'S  
SORCERY "



BUT ENOUGH OF  
THE PAST IT IS  
TIME TO SPEAK OF  
YOUR FUTURE, AMETHYST  
DARK OPAL IS GONE,  
BUT THERE STILL EXIST  
OTHER MINIONS OF  
CHAOS WITHIN THE  
CONFINES OF THE  
GEMWORLD

AS THE NEW LORD  
OF ORDER HERE, IT  
WILL BE YOUR JOB TO  
RID THE GEMWORLD  
OF EVERY LAST VESTIGE  
OF CHAOS WHEREVER  
YOU MIGHT FIND IT  
THIS WILL BE A GOOD  
PLACE TO BEGIN

THAT  
SMELL I  
I THINK I KNOW  
THIS PLACE  
IT S

THE  
TEMPLE OF  
THE ANCIENT  
ONES!!

TAKE ME AWAY  
FROM HERE,  
DR FATE!

I CAN'T  
FACE THE  
ANCIENT ONES  
WITHOUT MY  
EYESIGHT!

YOU ARE A  
LORD OF ORDER  
NOW AMETHYST,  
AND MUST ACT  
ACCORDINGLY

SEE WITH  
MORE THAN  
JUST YOUR  
EYES!

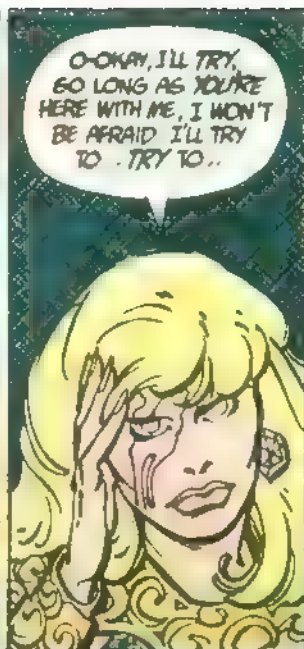






B-BUT...  
HOW DO I  
DO THAT?

JUST  
DO IT.



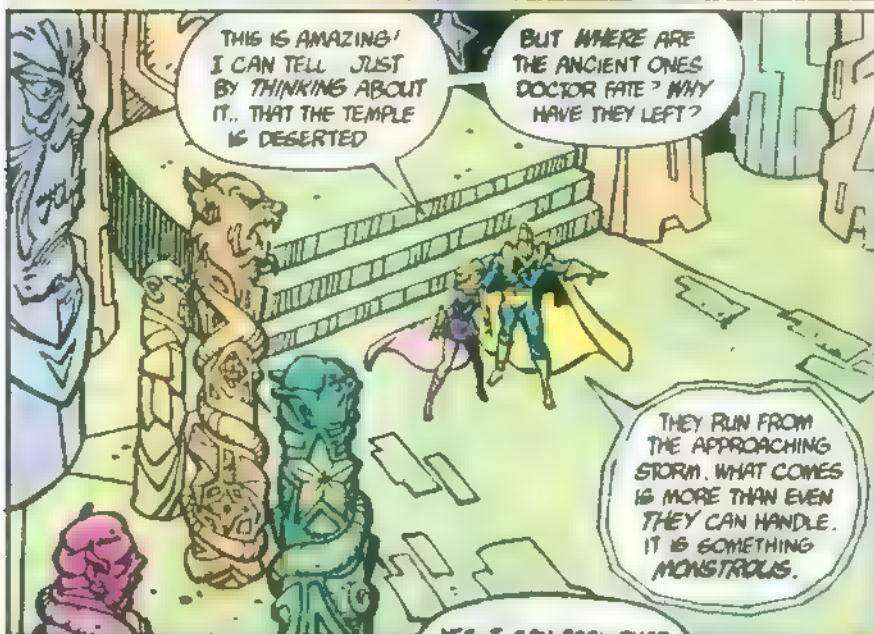
O-O-KAY, I'LL TRY,  
SO LONG AS YOU'RE  
HERE WITH ME, I WON'T  
BE AFRAID. I'LL TRY  
TO... TRY TO...



I CAN  
SEE THE  
TEMPLE  
IN MY  
MIND!

YOU STILL HAVE  
MUCH TO LEARN  
ANETHYST

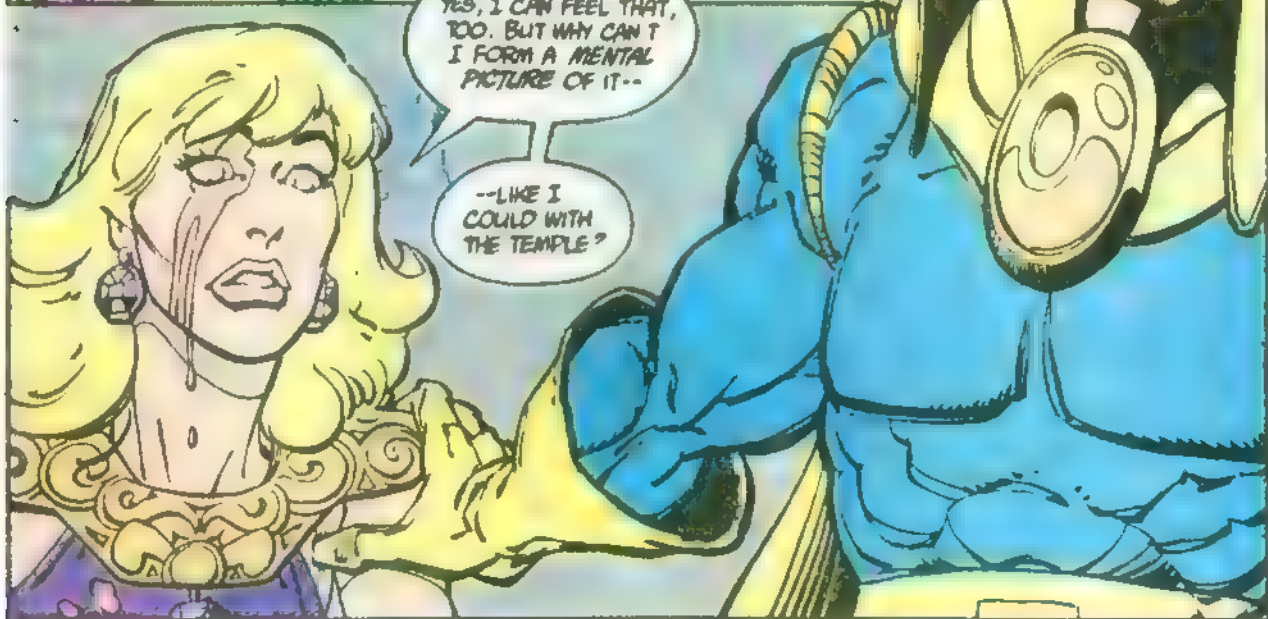
NONE OF WHICH WILL  
BE POSSIBLE WHILE  
I REMAIN HERE  
AS YOUR CRUTCH



THIS IS AMAZING!  
I CAN TELL JUST  
BY THINKING ABOUT  
IT.. THAT THE TEMPLE  
IS DESERTED

BUT WHERE ARE  
THE ANCIENT ONES  
DOCTOR FATE? WHY  
HAVE THEY LEFT?

THEY RUN FROM  
THE APPROACHING  
STORM. WHAT COMES  
IS MORE THAN EVEN  
THEY CAN HANDLE.  
IT IS SOMETHING  
MONSTROUS.



YES, I CAN FEEL THAT,  
TOO. BUT WHY CAN'T  
I FORM A MENTAL  
PICTURE OF IT--

--LIKE I  
COULD WITH  
THE TEMPLE?



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# MEANWHILE...

## ATLANTA FANTASY FAIR

And now a report from our man on the road, Bob Greenberger, and the doings down south



'This year's show looked to be the biggest one yet and the folks were just as friendly as always. The DC table was swamped all three days and the questions were coming fast and furious

'There were several interesting debates conducted in front of the table, such as 'Who is Sensor Girl in the Legion?' and 'Why did the Outsiders leave Batman?' Of course, **CRISIS** speculation was running rampant, considering the Death-of-the-Flash issue had just come out.

'One of the other highlights of the show, for me, was having an opportunity to speak with V actress June Chadwick. This was her first convention and she was wide-eyed most of the time. On Saturday she dropped by the DC table for a few minutes and spoke about how much she loved our comic. At the Women in Fantasy panel, she said her favorite fantasy was the way Carmine Infantino penciled her comic book counterpart every month.

'The two DC panels were packed each day and many of our upcoming series were greeted enthusiastically. Questions were about favorite characters and there was a lot of interest in seeing what happens next to the Charlton heroes—Blue Beetle, Captain Atom, Question, and the rest. All I did was smile and say, 'You'll see.' In fact, because of the sensitive nature of the **CRISIS** and its wrap-up, 'You'll see' was the most frequently stated phrase all weekend.

'**AQUAMAN** penciller, Craig Hamilton, dropped in all three days and, being a local boy, got enthusiastic response to the art on the first two

issues of the mini-series. Again, debate raged over whether the new costume was better than the old. It seemed fairly even, so I guess we have to wait and see the mail response.

'And, no, I won't go into detail about the comic-throwing debate between me and Marvel penciller Ron Frenz. Uh-uh, you can't make me."

Bob



Batcha I can make you tell, Bob. You want to get paid this week...?

It's so easy to go to San Diego. I mean, the plane ride is a drag... particularly when there are ground delays... but San Diego is so pretty and the atmosphere is so relaxed that you forget all the fretting as soon as you leave the airport terminal and get a sniff of the cool, clean air. A perfect place for enjoying yourself... and a perfect place for the biggest comic convention in the United States.

The 16th annual San Diego Comic Con took place between August 1 and August 4 and a large number of DC people were in attendance to help continue our ongoing anniversary celebration. The list includes Julie Schwartz, Mary Wollman, Len Wein, Mike W. Barr, Jerry Ordway, Gil and Elaine Kane, Jerry and Joanne Siegel, Alan and Phyllis Moore, Wonder Woman, Dick Giordano, Pat Bastienne, Richard Bruning, Klaus Janson, Peggy May, Bruce Bristow, Linda Robak, Paul Levitz, and Jenette Kahn and Mort Fink, but there were at least an equal number of DC contributors from the LA area who popped in and joined us for at least part of the time. Near as I can tell, all had a pretty good time.

The four con days were so jam-packed with things to do, the pace so hectic, that the days seemed to coalesce into a blur of frenetic activity, and I am left with vivid memories out of chronological order.

As in Chicago, the fans were very enthusiastic and the energy that was directed at DC, its creative people, its publishing effort for the year, and of course our fiftieth anniversary was exhilarating, to say the least. We came away with the distinct impression that

we're doing something right! Maybe a lot of something!

DC won five of the six categories in which we were nominated in the first Jack Kirby Comics Awards! **SWAMP THING**, by Alan Moore, Steve Bissette, and John Totleben, dominated the event and Alan Moore wore a path in the rug from his seat in the audience to the dais, picking up awards for himself, DC, and Steve and John (who were not in attendance). **CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS** won handily in the Best Finite Series category.

DC won the con feud for the third consecutive year. So far we're the only winners, there not having been such a contest (based on TV's *Family Feud*) before three conventions ago. This year, the DC team of captain Len Wein, Mary Wollman, Paul Levitz, Mike W. Barr, and Richard Bruning beat the folks from Renegade Press. The first two wins were versus Marvel.

There was a great moonlit barbecue dinner at the Sheraton Harbor Island! DC's invited guests included distributors, retailers, DC staffers, and free-lancers.

Jenette Kahn, our publisher, came to San Diego to lead our anniversary celebration, and her inimitable outgoing and gracious style helped create just the right mood for the festivities.

I must admit that I don't always enjoy costume parades, but the folk at San Diego always have known how to do it right. This year was no exception. I judged the best DC costumes, and Jenette personally presented a check for \$200 to the winners, a group of costumers dressed like the cast of **CAMELOT 3000 A.D.** Lo and behold they were also voted best of the show and we all left the theater very happy. Congratulations to the winners again.

There was more... much more. Looking at portfolios, talking to people whose work I admire (like Dave Stevens), reestablishing contact with our friends on the convention staff, etc. But as you can see, I've run out of space.

Thank You and Good Afternoon

Dick



☐ **Batman 392:** A night on the town can only spell trouble for Batman and Catwoman!

☐ **Superman 416:** Why does every March 12 set off a crime-sprees by Luthor?

☐ **Star Trek 23:** Redjac has invaded the *Excelsior* and begins his final revenge!

☐ **Amethyst 13:** Dr. Fate reveals secrets behind the Gemworld in this **CRISIS** crossover!

☐ **Super Powers 6:** The titanic final battle between Darkseid and Earth's mightiest heroes!

☐ **Aquaman 1:** A mini-series brings new dangers, the threat of war, and a

new costume for the King of the Seven Seas!

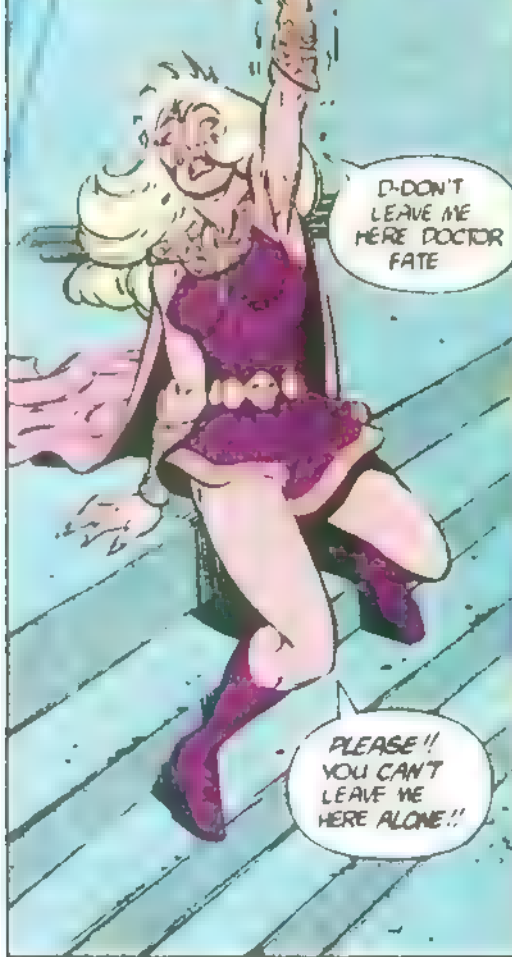
☐ **'Mazing Man 2:** DC's latest hero in 2 new tales, plus the secret of his unlimited wealth!

☐ **Omega Men 35:** The conclusion to the Teen Titans team-up!

☐ **Legion of Super-Heroes 19:** Is the Legion responsible for unleashing a killer race? Plus an Invisible Kid solo!

☐ **Shadow of the Batman 3:** Two more Englehart-Rogers-Austin stories, including the return of the Penguin!





COME BACK  
I SAID I'M  
NOT READY FOR  
THIS IT'S NOT  
FAIR!!

I RETURN NOW  
TO THE CRISIS BUT  
I WILL CONTINUE  
TO CHART YOUR  
PROGRESS  
FROM AFAR.

REMEMBER ALL  
THAT I HAVE TOLD  
YOU. EXPLORE YOUR  
INNER SELF LEARN  
THE LIMITS OF  
YOUR POTENTIAL

YOURS  
MAY PROVE  
TO BE A GRAND  
DESTINY  
AMETHYST

NO ONE  
CAN HELP  
YOU FIND  
IT

WAIT!

D-DON'T  
LEAVE ME  
HERE DOCTOR  
FATE

YOU. YOU  
CREEP! YOU  
COLD-HEARTED  
CREEP!!

WOW IN  
MY HEAD  
I CAN SEE  
HIM FLYING  
AWAY

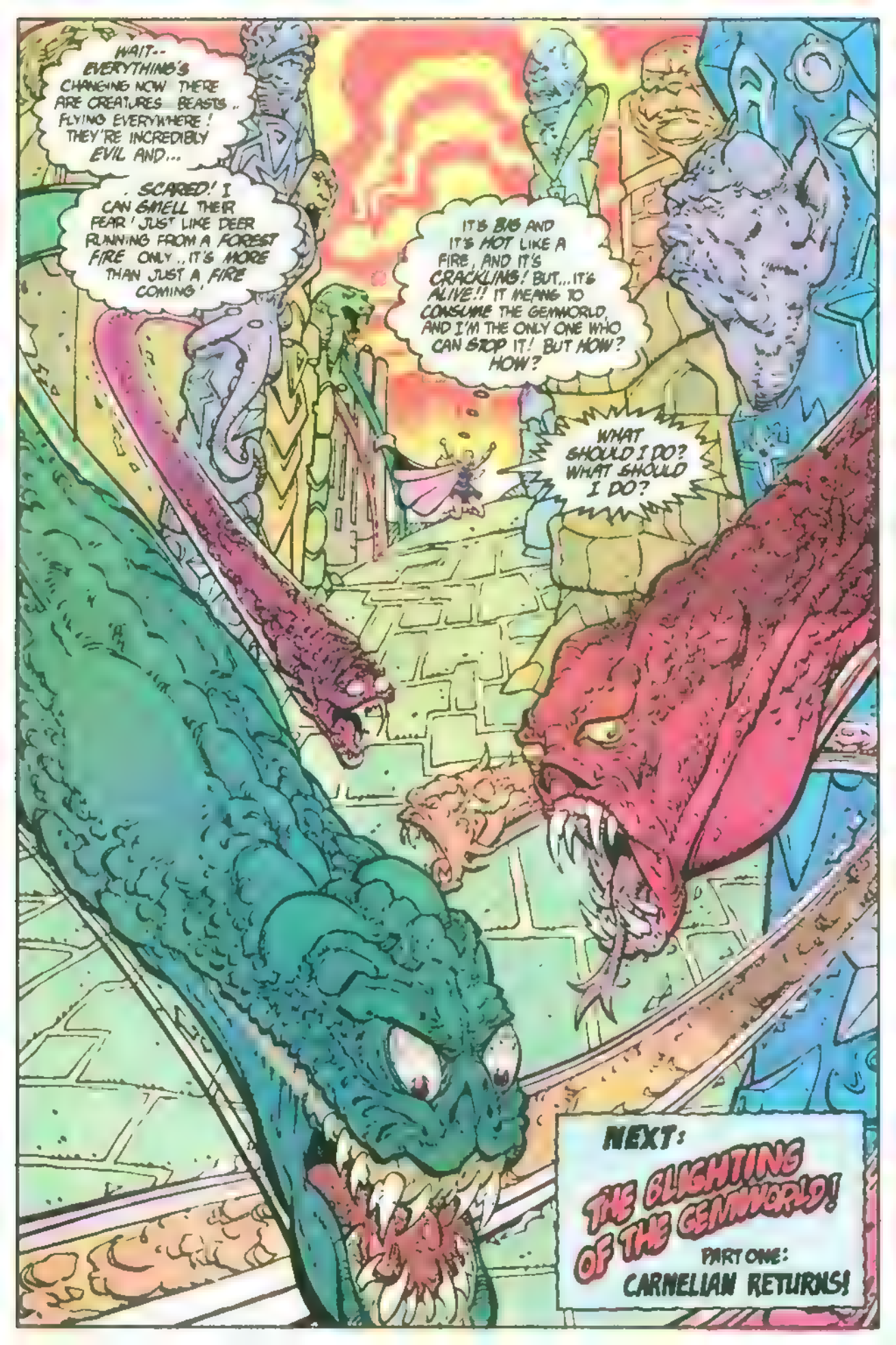
WHAT IN  
THE WORLD IS  
HAPPENING  
TO ME?

PLEASE!!  
YOU CAN'T  
LEAVE ME  
HERE ALONE!!

I OUGHT  
TO  
OUGHT  
TO

NOT ONLY THAT  
I CAN FEEL THE  
WIND ON HIS BACK,  
TASTE THE SALT IN  
THE AIR, HEAR HIS  
CAPE SNAPPING  
AGAINST HIS LEGS,  
AND SMELL RAIN  
COMING IN THE  
CLOUDS





WAIT--  
EVERYTHING'S  
CHANGING NOW THERE  
ARE CREATURES-- BEASTS...  
FLYING EVERYWHERE!  
THEY'RE INCREDIBLY  
EVIL AND...

SCARED! I  
CAN SMELL THEIR  
FEAR! JUST LIKE DEER  
RUNNING FROM A FOREST  
FIRE ONLY... IT'S MORE  
THAN JUST A FIRE  
COMING!

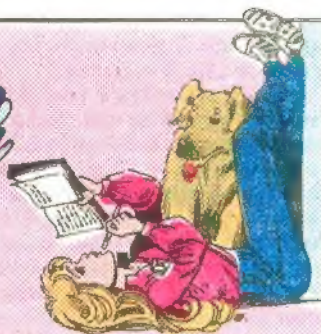
IT'S BIG AND  
IT'S HOT LIKE A  
FIRE, AND IT'S  
CRACKLING! BUT... IT'S  
ALIVE!! IT MEANS TO  
CONSUME THE GEMWORLD  
AND I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO  
CAN STOP IT! BUT HOW?  
HOW?

WHAT  
SHOULD I DO?  
WHAT SHOULD  
I DO?

**NEXT:**  
**THE BLIGHTING**  
**OF THE GEMWORLD!**  
**PART ONE:**  
**CARNELIAN RETURNS!**



# Purple Prose



DC Comics Inc.  
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New York, NY 10103

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L-2237

Dear Readers,

I bet you people out there don't know that I have telepathic powers. Well, to be honest, my abilities might now be as strong as say, Saturn Girl's, but I do know for sure what many of you are thinking right this instant, and I'll prove it by probing a few thousand minds at once. Don't worry, it doesn't hurt. Ready—here I go.

WHAT!! Amethyst's blind??!! I don't believe it! How did it happen? Oh, the poor girl! Will she ever be able to see again? And what's this Lord of Order stuff, and this Doctor Fate connection? I mean, I think I understand what's going on, but wow—this stuff is different, boy, is it different! What's going on?

Okay, folks, calm down. That's enough mental information for me, and if you sit tight I'll clear everything up for you. Promise. Taking it from the top... Amethyst, as most of DC's upstanding, forthright super-heroes, has appeared in *CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS* (the explosive twelve-issue maxi-series) to help in defending the universe against the evil and destructive anti-monitor. In *CRISIS* #11, which was released last week, Amethyst was not only attacked by the people of Salem for being a witch, but was blinded by the anti-monitor's death-wielding shadow demons. Dr. Fate, one of the most powerful of all known sorcerers, came to her rescue and, just by a simple touch, knew of her then previously unknown heritage. The Lord of Order guided our sightless princess back to the Gemworld, which is where our story begins this month.

The rest is rather self-explanatory. Dr. Fate brought to light what even Citrina dared not reveal, and that's this—Besides Amethyst possessing all of Citrina's powers, she also has even stronger magical abilities—those of her father, who was not only Lord Amethyst of the Gemworld but a mystical Lord of Order.

Now just because our princess is truly mighty, it doesn't mean that life's going to get easy for her. In fact, just the opposite's going to happen. Amethyst must tap into her once-dormant powers and, like a child, learn to take her first steps alone. For a time, her friends will fear her and she will fear herself. And what about her blindness? How will it affect Amy? What is she going to tell her parents? Stay tuned, folks, as this new chapter in Amethyst's life unfolds! Hope this answers all your questions, but if it doesn't, I'm sure you'll let me know! Now on to your letters—Karen

Dear Karen,

Fantasy, Magic, Gemstones, and a Strong Heroine are all qualities I've searched for in a comic since I began reading them, and I just had to tell you how enthralled with happiness I was when I read my first of AMETHYST, PRINCESS OF GEMWORLD.

That issue was #4 of her maxi-series (I've waited a long time to write, I know), since then, I have all her issues, her preview in the *LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES*, and even *DC COMICS PRESENTS* with Superman.

Thank you so very, much for creating a comic book which is so unique and enjoyable; a book filled with endless fantasy and magic, mysticism, and emotion. AMETHYST renewed my interest in comics and one reason, besides my tie with magic and fantasy, is the way that Amethyst and her other female companions are portrayed. Amethyst is shown as a girl/woman with a fully rounded personality; a person filled with doubts, feelings, ideals, and talents; she is not shown as a two-dimensional stereotype of a woman. So often (as you probably know), women have been portrayed as either cold-hearted, vengeful villainesses, defenseless victims, or as female punching machines with no emotions or thoughts. Turquoise, the Princesses Emerald, Citrina, even Sapphire, have all been representatives of many different kinds of female personalities. None of them fit into the old generalizations that have been overused in other books. The men in your book are also very interesting; distinctly portrayed as opposed to conventional types. I applaud all your interesting characters, philosophies, and plot lines.

This comic book has endless paths and possibilities that it could go—with all its gemstone houses that we know of and the other gemstones that haven't been introduced yet.

So many characters could be developed and stories be created. AMETHYST, PRINCESS OF GEMWORLD could be up there with other endless books, like *LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES*, *BATMAN*... But I've just heard that AMETHYST is going bimonthly after issue #12. WHY?? I thought sales were high? I hear applause from everywhere about the gorgeous artwork, great stories, characters, so what's going on? Maybe more publicity is needed. This comic is too special to be neglected by people. More women would be interested in comics if they knew such a book like Amethyst had been created.

There are an infinite number of books that attract only male readers, but so few that are created for female readers, or both female and male readers (such as AMETHYST, *LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES*, *THE TEEN TITANS*, *WW, BATO*)—(and Marvel's, *Sisterhood of Steel*). Here's to hoping that you keep the portals to the Gemworld open every month...

A reader of AMETHYST, PRINCESS OF GEMWORLD on Earth and on Gemworld,

Carmen L. Canal S.  
Manchester, CT 06040

*Interesting personalities make for richly textured characters, just as you stated, Carmen. We've all tried real hard to make AMETHYST a comic filled with varying realistic "types." As for the bimonthly status of the magazine, well, unfortunately the applause you've been hearing about the book just hasn't been loud enough. Of course we agree with you 100 percent that AMETHYST is too special to be neglected, and we're hoping we can reverse the seemingly lackluster buying trend soon.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Everyone:

This is not a specific letter about any one issue of AMETHYST, and basically all it does is praise it. Just to give you some glimpse of what to expect.

When I first bought a copy of AMETHYST (#9, as it happened), I was hooked. Nearly a month later, I have acquired all issues of the maxi-series, the Annual, *LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES* #298, *DC PRESENTS* #63 (which I'll get to in a minute), and #s 1, 2, 8, and 10 of the series. 3-7 I expect to get by the end of this month.

About *DC PRESENTS* #63—fabulous. The idea of teaming two super-heroes together is marvelous, and with Amethyst and Superman doubly so. Dark Opal was at his best. Speaking of which, when do we see his brother, did you say it was? I can't wait.

I also can't wait to see how you plan to resolve the triangle betwixt Amethyst, Topaz, and Turquoise (is that use of "betwixt" right?). How about killing off Topaz? Nah. Then you'd have two depressed women on your hands, as opposed to one. I don't think you'd kill off Turquoise or Amethyst either. Don't get me wrong, I'm not the bloodthirsty type. Maybe get another eligible bachelor into the act, and pair them off.

Does Amethyst get another annual? I



hope so. How about a poster? I mentioned this in another letter, but I think it's a neat idea. Something resembling the cover of the annual or issue #12 of the maxi-series, with all the characters and of course the heroine in the middle. Maybe by next issue we shall see if it would be appropriate to have Topaz by her side...?

Anyway, you've got a great comic. If only I could understand the *time* element...

Sincerely Yours,  
Tracy Rosenberg  
891 Vernon  
Glencoe, IL 60022

*It seems that the votes were about evenly split among you letter writers as to which royal lady should walk hand in hand under gemlit skies with the noble Prince Topaz. We all know by now, Tracy, that Turquoise will continue to spend many more romantic evenings with Topaz. And as for Amethyst, we've seen she's pretty much put the experience into perspective. Besides, now she's got a lot more important worries on her mind!*

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Karen,

Firstly, I want to welcome back Ernie Colón to the Gemworld. Does this mean Ernie now agrees that APOG can be just as "special" as an open-ended title as it was when still a maxi-series? Whatever the case, it's nice to have Ernie back for as long as he chooses to stay, and a tip of the hat to Ric Estrada and all the other pencilers and inkers who have given the Gemworld its "Colónesque" feel over the past nine months.

Gary and Dan (where was Dan this month?) are still doing a wonderful job. It's amazing how they keep all the various Earth and Gemworld characters straight. I'd love a scorecard saying which Royals belong to which house, as I tend to forget these things. My favorite characters in the book are Herb and Marion, two lovely people. I can understand their torment, trusting Amethyst to take care of herself but still hoping for an end to her Gemworld activities. I don't think they'll have much success breaking it's hold on Amy, however. I also like Emmy, although I think she adjusted surprisingly quickly to the upheaval of moving to another world. It just goes to show what a special little kid she is.

Unlike most of your letter writers, I hope Prince Topaz keeps well away from our heroine. He's so depressingly wet. I don't know what she or Turquoise sees in him (Turquoise and Turkey, what a combination!). She should dump Topaz.

Any chance of clarifying how Amethyst's power works? Can she just will things to happen, a la Green Lantern, or does she concentrate and hope for the best? She obviously has a natural aptitude, but is it totally instinctive or is she in control at all times? I really think you should more clearly define the limitations of Amethyst's spells, as was done with Zatanna. A heroine who can do anything runs the

risk of becoming boring (though it's not happened yet, thankfully).

Page one of issue 9 was interesting with the revelation that the power lies within Amy, not just Amethyst, even if it may be dormant. I'll be watching this situation with interest, ditto Tom's finding out about Amy's secrets. I hope you will explore the lad's feelings on learning that the 13-year-old girl he has his eye on can become a woman at will. The poor kid's hormones will likely go crazy (or as crazy as hormones ever get in a code book).

Keep up the good work and don't forget to polish your gems.

Mart Gray  
Dane House, Mill Street  
Buglawton, Congleton  
Cheshire, CW12 2AF  
England

*Funny you should mention clearly defining Amethyst's powers, Mart, because as we and our princess just discovered this issue, Amethyst, Princess of Gemworld possesses powers stronger than anyone has ever imagined! We don't want to ruin the fun and reveal the full extent of her abilities before she even finds out (after all, fair is fair). But, trust us—physically and spiritually, Amethyst's right up there with the big ones!*

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Purple Persons,

As an amateur collector of comic books and an enthusiastic and dedicated fan of fantasy, I must declare my rapidly increasing admiration for AMETHYST. Not only do I feel that it is one of the best comics currently printed, I consider the opportunity to curl up with an issue of AMETHYST the chance to escape into a high-spirited, often very imaginative adventure. As if the two previous reasons weren't enough, the writing, art, and layout for AMETHYST are exceptional. It becomes quite clear to the reader after a few issues (as it became clear to me after my first) that a very talented staff is responsible for the well-textured, exciting epics embraced by AMETHYST's covers.

Among the more important reasons why this comic has enthralled me so is the beautiful, vibrant artwork. Mr. Colón, I salute you. Your style so captures lovely Princess Amethyst that she truly seems to live the adventures that you so masterfully illustrate. Perhaps the thing I find most admirable about your work is the manner in which you draw Amethyst herself. Not only does she possess the grace and poise of a member of a royal house, she has the strength and endurance of the monarch who led Gemworld's houses against Dark Opal. No decorative, ornamental female is she, but a true warrior. It is a pleasure to know that there are some scrupulous artists who elect to handle female anatomy with class and tact.

Second, I must congratulate the writers on creating a group of very interesting and relatively complex characters. The heroine of your series is a wonderful sympathetic character

because she knows that she must make a decision between this world and the Gemworld. And of course, being born in August, I have an undeniable interest in Sardonyx. Previously, as I was perusing the letters page, I noted that a fellow admirer of Amethyst thought that the Lord of Serpents had switched sides and become a good guy too fast. Who said that Sardonyx was a good guy? He simply saw that it was to his advantage to aid Amethyst just this once. Sardonyx is clearly willing to defend his people and family no matter whom he must side with. I find him deliciously neutral and intriguing, so please keep him that way for a little while. I love guys no one can figure out.

Third, I must confess that some of my love for Amethyst does spring from feminist tendencies. Naturally, I love this series because the major character is an interesting, beautiful, well-rounded woman (girl). As I previously mentioned, she is by no means merely a decorative female. The effort to keep her character three dimensional is commendable. Also, I must state that Mr. Colón has managed to capture my unbridled interest by supplying the cast of characters with some very attractive men. Bless you, sir! In this age where many female characters of sci-fi and fantasy are simply included to give male readers someone to goggle at, it is wonderful to know that someone is catering to the tastes of female voyeurs as well. Topaz (drool), Prince Moonstone (sigh), and Prince Garnet are all deeply appreciated by myself and friends of a similar mind. I also was quite fond of Dark Opal, who was, in a dark, twisted, evil, perverted way, rather handsome (no accounting for my tastes, eh?).

Well, what else can I say? Keep up the brilliant work, gang. Karen, you have my undying praise and respect. May the glory of the Gemworld live forever in these pages!

Your ardent AMETHYST admirer,  
Yvonne Brunot  
Washington, DC

**NEXT: Amethyst's teachings begin as Carnelian returns to the Gemworld, bearing his father's evil legacy! See you then—Karen**







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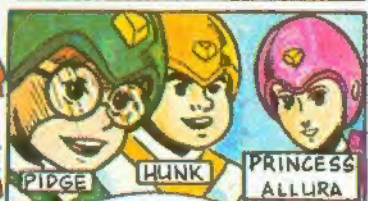
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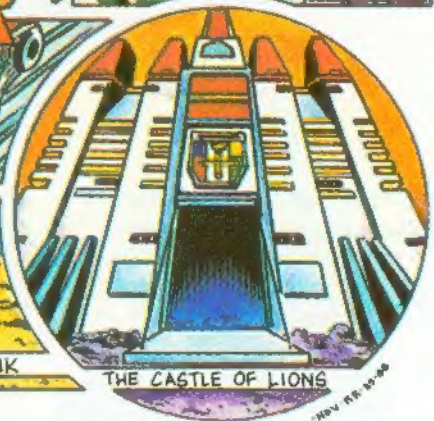
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